

NNNNVV

ES

A

UNCLASSIFIED

F/RH

BH054

291DOA322

RR RUESBA
 DE RUESDO #7698 0611459
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 R 021446Z MAR 78
 FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 TO RUFGSV/USMISSION GENEVA 0218
 INFO RUERC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5948
 RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 6932
 RUOTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0154
 BT

| TO | ACI | INF | TO 2 | ACTI | 6733 |
|------|-----|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| AMB | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | AMB | | |
| DCM | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | DCM | | |
| | | | SEA | | |
| POL | 3 | | SEA | | |
| ECOM | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | AMB | | |
| PCIA | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PCIA | | |
| COG | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SEA | | |
| ADM | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | AMB | | |
| USIS | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SEA | | |
| STI | | | COG | | |
| SY | | | SEA | | |

MONTEVIDEO 0698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: YEHUDI MENUHIN'S INTEREST IN MIGUEL ESTRELLA

GENEVA FOR AMB. VANDEN HEUVEL FROM CHARGE

SECSTATE FOR ARA/ECA AMB. PEZZULLO

REF: GENEVA 3196 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO IS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON ATTENDING ARA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF SENDING YOU FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE TEXT OF HIS FEBRUARY 24 REPLY TO YEHUDI MENUHIN'S FEBRUARY 9 LETTER TO HIM, WHICH CONTAINS AN UP TO DATE REPORT OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ESTRELLA CASE.

2. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S REPLY SENT TO MENUHIN'S LONDON ADDRESS VIA EMBASSY LONDON: QUOTE
 DEAR MR. MENUHIN: I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 9 REGARDING THE ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT BY THE URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES OF PIANIST, MIGUEL ANGEL ESTRELLA. I BROUGHT YOUR LETTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND URGED THAT HE ADVISE HIS GOVERNMENT OF YOUR CONCERN AND OF THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU IN THIS EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF MR. ESTRELLA. NOTING THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONALLY PRESTIGIOUS PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS EFFORT, I TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY WEIGH CAREFULLY THE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ACTIONS AND ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS IN THIS MATTER.

BA-9
4-12-7681F93
(51/52)

UNCLASSIFIED

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS WELL AWARE OF THE CASE AND INFORMED ME THAT HE ALSO HAD BEEN APPROACHED RECENTLY BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR. HE, AND OTHER URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS THAT I HAVE CONTACTED, INDICATE THAT MR. ESTRELLA IS BEING HELD UNDER URUGUAYAN SECURITY LAWS FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN URUGUAY WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ARGENTINE-BASED MONTONERO MOVEMENT. I UNDERSTAND MR. ESTRELLA IS VERY UPSET WITH HIS DETENTION, BUT OTHERWISE IS IN GOOD HEALTH. HE IS CONFINED IN LA LIBERTAD PRISON, A RELATIVELY NEW FACILITY.

QUITE CLEARLY THE URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES AT MANY LEVELS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE EFFORTS OF YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THIS MATTER, AS WELL AS THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY MYSELF AND OTHER OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES.

YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN THIS MATTER. SINCERELY YOURS,
LAWRENCE A. PEZZULLO, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. UNQUOTE.

P2 3. WE APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH THERE PROBABLY IS NOT TOO MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE FROM THERE, YOU COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES PRIVATELY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH GOU OFFICIALS EITHER ASSIGNED TO OR PASSING THROUGH GENEVA. AS INDICATED ABOVE THE POINTS TO MAKE ARE: (A) BY IMPRISONING ESTRELLA THE GOU RISKS INCURRING A BOYCOTT OF URUGUAY BY THE WORLD'S LEADING CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC FIGURES WHICH WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE NATION'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE; (B) ALTHOUGH ALLEGED OFFENSES OF ESTRELLA ARE DIRECTED AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, THE GOA NOTABLY HAS NEITHER REQUESTED HIS EXTRADITION NOR PUBLICLY SUPPORTED HIS DETENTION BY THE GOU; (C) THE GOU SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER WHERE URUGUAYAN SELF-INTEREST LIE IN DISPOSING OF THIS CASE. FYI: ESTRELLA IS WELL KNOWN AS AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF THE MONTONERO CAUSE BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTLY LINKED WITH THEIR OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH GOU SECURITY OFFICIALS BELIEVE HIS INVOLVEMENT GOES MUCH DEEPER, THEIR SPECIFIC CASE AGAINST HIM REPORTEDLY IS BASED ON USE OF HIS RENTED BEACH HOUSE NEAR MONTEVIDEO BY MONTONERO ACTIVISTS AND THE FACT THAT FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND HIDDEN IN THIS HOUSE WHEN IT WAS RAIDED AND ESTRELLA SEIZED, ALTHOUGH HE DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF THEM. END FYI.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ESTRELLA CASE CLOSELY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ASSIST. WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

5. YOU MAY WISH TO REPEAT YOUR TELEGRAM TO LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR BREWSTER WHO ALSO HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MENUKIN ON THIS MATTER.

CHEEK

BT
#0698

UNCLASSIFIED

BA-9
4-12-76